

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WISBECH

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1942.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,



I herewith submit my Annual Report for 1942, which is also my final report.

On my visit to some of the fruit pickers bunks during the fruit picking season, I concluded from my brief experience that the conditions under which these people live are not conducive to good health. I regret that with the limited time at my disposal I was not able to make a complete inspection of all the bunks, but the matter is one that does require attention.

I would also direct your attention to my remarks on Diphtheria Immunisation.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Council for their consideration during my term of office, my thanks are due also to the staff for their co-operation.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

J. F. DAWSON

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

J. F. Dawson. M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

T.A.C. March, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I

Laboratory Facilities.  
Nursing in the Home.  
Clinics.  
Hospitals  
Air Raid Precautions.  
Ambulance Facilities.

Facilities available under the above headings have not changed since 1941.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This work is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector who will no doubt refer to it in his Annual Report.

#### WATER SUPPLY

Parts of the district enjoy a piped supply, other areas have to depend chiefly on the weather for supplies.

The sustained efforts of the Council have resulted in a piped supply of water to Foul Anchor area being made available.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There is not any system of sewage disposal. House drainage is carried into cesspools.

#### HOUSING

No improvements have taken place during the year regarding housing.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was a reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever compared with the previous year. For a rural community the figure is still high. The cases were spread over the area and occurred at various times during the year.

An outbreak of Measles in the fruit pickers bunks was averted by protection of the children with adult measles serum.

Seven cases of Diphtheria have occurred.

#### SCABIES

It is regrettable that there are as yet no facilities for the treatment of this disease. In August of this year I submitted a scheme for the approval of the Council. This was turned down and arrangements for in-patient treatment was to be made available at the Wisbech Public Assistance Institution. In February of 1943 there are still no facilities for dealing with this disease, and until such facilities are made available it is



not possible to use the powers given to Local Authorities by the Scabies Order.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Although the response to Diphtheria Immunisation has been much better than in previous years, the occurrence of 7 cases of Diphtheria shows only too clearly that sufficient children have not yet been immunised. Difficulties in transport may in some way be accountable for the figures in the 1 to 5 groups being low. I suggest that local practitioners be enlisted to carry out treatment in their surgeries and at the homes of the children. A scale of fees is laid down by the British Medical Association for practitioners who carry out this work.

Return of Cases Admitted to ..... Isolation Hospital  
for the year ending 31st. December, 1942.

For the Rural District of Wisbech

Disease	No. of Cases.	Total No. of days in Hospital.	Age Groups.												Deaths.
			Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over.	
Scarlet Fever.	31			1	2	1	3	17	2	2	2		1		
Diphtheria.	7				1	1			3	1		1			
Pneumonia	16						1	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	
Puerperal Fever.	1									1					
Erysipelas.															
Cerebrospinal Fever.	1									1					
Enteric Fever.															
Acute Poliomyelitis															
Chicken Pox.															
Whooping Cough.	10				2		2	6							
Measles.	8			1			3	3					1		